



PERISPHERE
T H E A T E R



Annual Report

**October 1, 2023 -
June 30, 2024**

TABLE OF CONTENTS



1

A LETTER FROM THE
ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

2

HIGHLIGHTS FROM
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
PRODUCTION

4

HIGHLIGHTS FROM *THE
NICETIES* PRODUCTION

6

THANKS TO OUR
DONORS

8

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

10

THE PERISPHERE TEAM

COVER PHOTO OF DAWN THOMAS REIDY AND KULLAN EDBERG IN PERISPHERE'S PRODUCTION OF *HAZARDOUS MATERIALS*. PHOTO ABOVE FEATURING KULLAN EDBERG. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DJCOREY PHOTOGRAPHY.



Lizzi Albert



Gerrad Alex Taylor

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

The 2023-2024 season included productions of *Hazardous Materials*, by Beth Kander, directed by Lizzi Albert, and *The Niceties*, by Eleanor Burgess, directed by Kevin O’Connell. Both productions were warmly reviewed. Both productions featured casts that were 50% Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC), and employed several early career designers and technicians, befitting Perisphere’s commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, .

This period also saw the appointment of Perisphere’s current artistic leadership team,

Gerrad Alex Taylor and Lizzi Albert, as co-artistic directors. Taylor and Albert’s goals for their first year of leadership included planning their first season, finding Perisphere a regular performance space, and making strategic financial decisions to reduce overhead and production expenses. In March, they signed an MOU with Bethesda-based The Writer’s Center (TWC), forming an agreement for Perisphere to manage TWC’s black box theater space in exchange for the use of the theater for two productions per year as well as rehearsal space. Historically,

venue rental and rehearsal space rental has been Perisphere’s highest production expense. By eliminating over \$16,000 in expenses, Taylor and Albert have freed up funds to pay artists and invest in marketing and outreach. The establishment of a “home base” for Perisphere will also support the efforts develop strong community relationships and loyal patronage.

**Lizzi Albert,
Co-Artistic Director**

**Gerrad Alex Taylor,
Co-Artistic Director**



PERISPHERE
THEATER

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

by Beth Kander

Directed by Lizzi Albert

Featuring

Seth Rosenke, Jessica Ludd,
Kullan Edberg, and Dawn Thomas Reidy

November 3 - 18, 2023
at The Writer's Center
in Bethesda

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS is presented by
special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,
servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.
(www.dramatists.com)

Perisphere Theater is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org).



“Superbly acted...”

Perisphere’s first production of the season, *Hazardous Materials*, sold 237 tickets over the course of its ten performances. Critics praised the production. Ian Thal for the Washington City Paper wrote, “Superbly acted, Beth Kander’s play smoothly jumps between timelines, unspooling two tales of unexpected friendship and our need for human connection.”

Debbie Minter Jackson, writing for DC Theater Arts wrote, “The actors complement each other with impeccable timing, delivery, and trust. The intuitive reactions to each other match anything I’ve seen on big stages — to witness that kind of artistry in a small setting up close is a gift.”

One actor, Dawn Thomas Reidy, was nominated for a Helen Hayes award for Best Performance in a Leading Role for her portrayal of Lynley Robbins.

The cast of Perisphere’s production of *Hazardous Materials* by Beth Kander, 2023. Photo Courtesy of DJCorey Photography.





PERISPHERE
THEATER

The Niceties

by

Eleanor Burgess

directed by

Kevin O'Connell

featuring

Sue Struve and Hannah Taylor

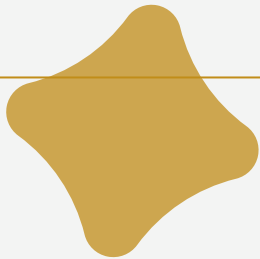
March 8 -23, 2024

at the

Silver Spring Black Box Theatre

Tickets at perispheretheater.com

“...a brilliant and important play.”



Top: Sue Struve as Janine
Bottom: Hannah Taylor as Zoe
Production Photos of *The Niceties*
courtesy of DJCorey Photography.



The Niceties sold 221 tickets during its run and also received excellent reviews. Andy Arnold, writing for DC Theater Arts, called it “a brilliant and important play.” In Maryland Theater Guide, Anne Valentino found the “complexity of the [actors’] portrayals... exhilarating,” and praised the set and lighting design along with the direction, describing the production as “a wholly satisfying evening of theater.”

The production also hosted a talkback featuring Dr. Felicia Y. Thomas from Morgan State University in conversation with director, Kevin O’Connell. The two brought a candid conversation to Perisphere’s patrons on the issues of race and American history raised in the play.



TO OUR DONORS

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT IS THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR NONPROFIT'S MISSION. WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS, WE CAN CONTINUE TO CREATE TRANSFORMATIVE THEATRICAL EXPERIENCES THAT ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY. YOUR BELIEF IN THE ARTS EMPOWERS US TO PUSH BOUNDARIES AND INSPIRE AUDIENCES. THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR WORK POSSIBLE AND FOR BEING CHAMPIONS OF CREATIVITY AND CULTURE.

LAURA ATWOOD
ROY BERKOWITZ
NANCY BLUM
KATIE BOWEN
CHRISTOPHER COLEMAN
JOHN DRISCOLL
JOHN FOELLMER
ALEXANDRA FRY
KIA HUNTER*
WILLIAM HURLBUT
MIKE JERUE

RACHEL JOHNS
MICHAEL KHARFEN
HELEN LEDDY
JOHN LORENZ
ELGIN MARTIN
JOHN MCCOSKEY*
JEFF MCDERMOTT*
KEVIN O'CONNELL*
PEG O'CONNELL AYERS

BOB PURSELL
TONI SALVATORE*
MELINDA SALZMAN
GARY SLOAN
STEVE SMITH
LAURA SMITH
STEVEN SMITH
SUE STRUVE
ANONYMOUS (13)

*denotes a member of the Perisphere Theater Board of Directors



FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN BECOME
A SUPPORTER OF PERISPHERE
THEATER AT OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://PERISPHERETHEATER.COM
/DONATE/](https://perispheretheater.com/donate/)

PERISPHERE COMPLETED BUDGET FY 2024

*October 1, 2023-June 30, 2024**

EXPENSES	Projected	Actual
Production Expenses-Hazardous Materials		
Actor compensation	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Director compensation	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Stage Manager compensation	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Set Designer compensation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Master Carpenter compensation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Costume Designer compensation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Lighting Designer compensation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Sound Designer compensation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Properties Designer compensation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
ASM/Wardrobe/Backstage Crew	\$3,000.00	\$2,362.50
Costumes	\$700.00	\$756.86
Set/Furniture	\$1,200.00	\$1,542.68
Props	\$700.00	\$757.25
Marketing and community outreach	\$2,000.00	\$3,068.44
Transportation	\$0.00	\$327.67
Event Insurance	\$350.00	\$318.30
Sound, lighting, stage management materials	\$0.00	\$581.87
Hazardous Materials expense subtotal	\$20,650.00	\$22,415.57
Production Expenses-The Niceties		
Rental of Silver Spring Stage Black Box (less deposit returned)	\$3,858.00	\$3,970.17
Venue Staff	\$2,645.00	\$2,645.00
Actors (2)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Director	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Stage Manager	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Set Designer	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Set Labor	\$200.00	\$200.00
Costume Consultant	\$300.00	\$300.00
Lighting Designer/Consultant	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Properties Designer	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Fight Choreographer	\$50.00	\$50.00
Costumes (actor rentals)	\$200.00	\$200.00

Set and Props	\$1,600.00	\$1,694.03
Marketing and community outreach	\$4,000.00	\$3,793.70
Rehearsal Space	\$200.00	\$200.00
Event Insurance	\$350.00	\$318.30
Post-show speaker	\$0.00	\$400.00
Substitute SM	\$0.00	\$300.00
Concessions	\$0.00	\$398.00
Niceties Expenses Subtotal	\$21,103.00	\$22,169.20
2025 Season Expenses		
<i>America Play</i> script license	\$2,100.00	\$2,144.00
<i>Marie Antoinette</i> script license	\$2,100.00	\$2,018.00
2025 Season expenses subtotal	\$4,200.00	\$4,162.00
Perisphere Overhead		
Storage/rehearsal space rental	\$2,400.00	\$1,200.00
Website and email domain	\$216.51	\$216.51
Perisphere Overhead Subtotal	\$2,616.51	\$1,416.51
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$48,569.51	\$50,163.28
REVENUE		
Earned Income: Ticket and concessions revenue	\$12,000.00	\$11,142.01
Government giving: Maryland State Arts Council	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Board and individual giving	\$10,000.00	\$32,454.44
In-kind donations (Director, Props Designer for Niceties)	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$26,000.00	\$50,096.45
Surplus (Deficit)		-\$66.83
Beginning balance		\$2,577.06
Ending balance		\$2,510.23
*Note that in 2024, Perisphere's Board approved changing its fiscal year to run July-June, instead of October-September, so FY 2024 is a short year.		



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ARTISTIC TEAM

GERRAD ALEX TAYLOR
Co-Artistic Director

LIZZI ALBERT
Co-Artistic Director

KIA HUNTER
Board President

JEFF MCDERMOTT
Board Secretary

JOHN MCCOSKEY
Board Member

KEVIN O'CONNEL
Former Artistic & Executive Director

NOW THAT OUR SEASON HAS COME TO A CLOSE, WE CAN DISPENSE WITH THE NICETIES! BUT NOT TO WORRY, OUR NEXT SEASON HAS A PLETHORA OF NEW PROGRAMMING, REGIONAL PREMIERES, AND EXCITING STORIES TO SHARE. THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS AND SEE YOU NEXT SEASON!



Hannah Taylor and Sue Struve in Perisphere's production of *The Niceties*. Photo courtesy of DJCorey Photography.

SEASON '25: REVOLUTION



THE AMERICA PLAY

by Suzan-Lori Parks



January 31-

February 15, 2025

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://PERISPHERETHEATER.COM](https://perispheretheater.com) AND FOLLOW US ON
SOCIALS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR NEXT SEASON AND HOW YOU
CAN BECOME A PART OF THE PERISPHERE FAMILY AS AN ARTIST, VOLUNTEER,
PATRON, OR DONOR!



MARIE ANTOINETTE: THE COLOR OF FLESH

by Joel Gross



June 6-

June 21, 2025